

# How can I remove special characters from a string in VBA?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process of removing special characters from a string in VBA involves using built-in functions and methods to identify and eliminate any non-alphanumeric characters. This can be achieved by first converting the string into an array, then looping through each element and checking for special characters. If found, they can be replaced with an empty string. Alternatively, regular expressions can be used to match and remove specific patterns of special characters. This process can be useful when dealing with data manipulation or formatting tasks in VBA.

## VBA: Remove Special Characters from String

You can use the following basic syntax in VBA to remove special characters from strings:

```
Sub ReplaceSpecialChars()
```

```
Dim i As Integer
```

```
For i = 2 To 8
```

```
Range("B" & i) = Replace(Replace(Replace(Range("A" & i), "!", ""), "@", ""), "#", "")
```

```
Next i
```

```
End Sub
```

This particular example replaces the following special characters from each string in the cell range A2:A8 and outputs the new strings in cells B2:B8:

!@#

Notice that we used three nested Replace methods to

remove each of these special characters from the strings.

To remove even more special characters, simply use more nested Replace methods.

The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

**Example: Remove Special Characters from String Using VBA**

**Suppose we have the following list of strings in Excel:**

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>String</b>			
2	Hey# Everyone			
3	This is @@a great run			
4	This is a good team			
5	What is happ#@ening			
6	This is cool!			
7	Oh! How fun			
8	This is just ##awesome#			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

**Suppose we would like to remove the following special characters from each string:**

**!@#**

**We can create the following macro to do so:**

```
Sub ReplaceSpecialChars()
```

```
Dim i As Integer
```

```
For i = 2 To 8
```

```
Range("B" & i) = Replace(Replace(Replace(Range("A" & i), "!", ""), "@", ""), "#", "")
```

```
Next i
```

```
End Sub
```

**When we run this macro, we receive the following output:**

	A	B	C
1	<b>String</b>	<b>Strings with Special Characters Removed</b>	
2	Hey# Everyone	Hey Everyone	
3	This is @@a great run	This is a great run	
4	This is a good team	This is a good team	
5	What is happ#@ening	What is happening	
6	This is cool!	This is cool	
7	Oh! How fun	Oh How fun	
8	This is just ##awesome#	This is just awesome	
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			

**Column B displays each of the strings in column A with the special characters removed.**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks using VBA:**